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8.	ROB with approaches at Km. 399/0 near Fekari village and Km. 418/80 near Nashirabad village including strengthening Km. 400/200 to 428/00 on NH-6 in Jalgaon Distt.
9.	Construction of R.C.C. flyover bridge on Westernly diversion outside Pune city on NH-4 at Warje junction in Km. 27/160 to 27/680.

Radical Changes in Higher Education

1466. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating radical changes in the higher education/University system to make it flexible enough to adapt to the desirable changes allowing partial privatisation of Universities or introducing changes to make higher education self-financing by encouraging industry-University interactions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Experts Committee have made certain recommendations on desirable structural changes in higher/University education pattern in the wake of economic liberalisation;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed thereon;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to set up international University to cater to the needs of NRIs and foreign students from developing countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d). In November, 1992, University Grants Commission (UGC) had appointed a high-powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice K. Punnayya to, inter-alia, suggest specific measures for mobilisation of additional resources by the universities. The Committee has made several recommendations in this regard, which include the following :

- * Quality, efficiency and innovativeness must be consciously rewarded and institutions failing to improve financial and academic discipline should face disincentives.
- * From the Ninth Plan onwards, grants should be related to unit cost of activities as a rule, except for new programmes for which unit costs are not determined, or would be difficult to determine.

- * Heavy subsidies in many of the activities covered under maintenance grant have to be reviewed and reduced to a substantial extent.
- * Expenditure due to increase in the number of staff has to be reviewed and curbed firmly wherever necessary.
- * Development grants should be linked to an academic audit system and performance indicators to be developed by each university.
- * The student teacher ratio should be 1 : 12.
- * The teaching to non-teaching staff ratio should be brought to 1 : 3 and employees like gardeners, safaiwalas, watchward etc. be engaged on contract basis to the extent possible.
- * The tuition fees may be revised upwards with immediate effect and may be periodically adjusted, keeping in view the rate of inflation.
- * Fees for library, laboratory, sports should be revised upwards to recover a significant part of the recurring cost.
- * Hostel fees should be revised with immediate effect to meet all the actual recurring cost and in due course of time, a part of capital cost as well. The student community should be involved in the discussions to raise resources where their interest are affected.
- * The income derived from enhancement of fees should be utilised to augment fellowship and scholarship programmes for ensuring access to weaker sections.
- * For generating income, the universities should let out their infrastructural facilities like playgrounds, auditoria etc. and also organise short-term courses for which there is demand. They should also solicit endowments, contributions and actively participate in consultancy, without affecting the academic activity of the institutions.

According to the information furnished by UGC, the Report of Punnayya Committee, together with the views of UGC thereon, has been circulated to the Central/State/Deemed Universities as also to the State Governments/UT Administrations for implementation of the recommendations relevant to them.

Government has introduced "The Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 1995" in the Rajya Sabha to provide for establishment of self-financing private universities in the country and to regulate their functioning by enacting an enabling legislation on the subject.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.